

● *FactFinder* Environmental Update

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Update of cleanup at Operable Unit 2

Introduction

The Installation Restoration Program is an ongoing Department of Defense program conducted at military bases nationwide to identify and address potential sites of contamination resulting from past waste disposal practices. This fact sheet is one in a series to inform interested citizens of environmental investigations and remedial actions at NAS Jacksonville.

The purpose of NAS Jacksonville's Installation Restoration Program is to identify and clean up sites where contamination or possible contamination could pose a risk to people and/or the environment.

This fact sheet updates the cleanup work at Operable Unit (OU) 2.

Location

OU 2 is located in the northern boundary of the air station. The St. Johns River is to the east, while Timuquana Country Club is located to the west. NAS Jacksonville's taxiways and runways are located to the south and east.

Site Background

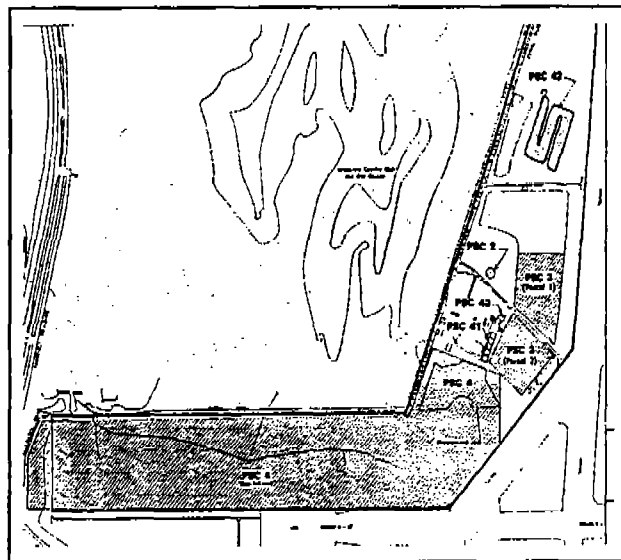
There are six Potential Source of Contamination (PSC) sites within OU 2:

PSC 2 Former fire fighting training area

A 100-foot by 100-foot area, the site was used for firefighting training from 1966 to present. Mock airplane forms were ignited using JP-4, JP-5, and AV-GAS aviation fuel. It's estimated that 6,000 gallons of fuel were burned annually.

PSC 3 Wastewater treatment plant ex-sludge disposal area

From 1962 to 1980, more than 20,000 tons of sewage sludge containing metals and organic compounds were disposed in a 15-acre area just east of the sewage treatment plant.



**Operable Unit (OU) 2
with PSCs 2, 3, 4, 41, 42, and 43**

PSC 4 Pine tree planting area

Until 1975, this area, located 200 feet south of the sewage treatment plant, was used for the disposal of paint shavings, sewage sludge, asbestos, oil and other petroleum products.

PSC 41 Domestic waste sludge drying beds

Operated under a Resource, Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit, an average of 90 gallons per day of sludge was dewatered in these domestic sludge drying beds. The sludges contained heavy metals.

PSC 42 Polishing pond

The polishing pond, built in 1970, provided a means to circulate water through winding turns, allowing solid waste to settle to the bottom of the pond. The solid waste that settled to the bottom of the man-made pond created a "sludge" layer, which was identified as hazardous. The air station stopped using the pond in 1987.

PSC 43 Industrial waste sludge drying beds

Like PSC 41, this was a RCRA permitted site. Constructed in 1980, it was operated to dewater metal sludges from electroplating operations. Between 1980 and 1988, about 8,250 gallons of dried sludges were excavated and removed from the sludge drying beds. The air station stopped using the area in 1988. A RCRA closure permit to close the beds was issued in 1991.

Investigations

Focused Remedial Investigations — sampling, testing, and analysis at specific sites — began in June 1993. Petroleum contamination was found at PSC 2, while the other PSC's investigation showed levels of metals (e.g., cadmium, chromium, lead, nickel, and silver) at higher levels than those naturally occurring in the area. The materials are a result of sludge disposal.

Cleanups

Interim remedial actions (cleanups) were designed to deal with individual PSCs. With the exception of PSC 2, sites were cleaned up under RCRA and the Comprehensive, Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). The following actions were taken:

- PSC 2 was transferred to the air station's petroleum program, which means it will be cleaned through other means and under a different program.
- PSC's 3 and 4 were investigated and a small area of contamination was consolidated with the PSC-42 polishing pond cleanup and has been treated.
- PSC's 41's and 43's contaminated soils were also consolidated into PSC 42.
- PSC 42 underwent "in place" stabilization, which involved mixing a cement mixture with the sediment and groundwater in the pond to form a large, solid block about two to four feet below the surface of the soil cover. The area, which was back-filled and hydroseeded, is now a large green field on the northeast corner of the air station. The cleanup at PSC 42 was completed in March 1997.

Closure

PSC's 41, 42, and 43 will be closed per the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act — RCRA. The final Closure Reports for PSC's 41 and 43 — establishing the sites as clean — are under review by EPA and FDEP, and are expected to be released in October 1997, while the final Closure Report on PSC 42 will be submitted to EPA and FDEP in December 1997. As part of the closure process, PSC's 41, 42, and 43 will undergo groundwater monitoring which is expected to start in Fiscal Year 1998.

What's Next

With so much work already completed by cleanup contractors, the EPA, FDEP, cleanup contractors, and Navy Environmental specialists, have determined that a Feasibility Study would not be required. After release of the Remedial Investigation Report in October 1997, the Navy expects to develop a proposed plan and move quickly to Record of Decision (ROD), hoping to release these documents to the public by Spring 1998.

Available Information

Information on this site, as well as all materials regarding the environmental cleanup at NAS Jacksonville, are available for public review at the Charles D. Webb Wesconnett Branch of the Jacksonville Public Library, 6887 103rd Street.

Library hours are Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Written Comments/Mailing List

If you wish to contact the Navy regarding cleanup activities, or if you would like to be on the Stakeholder's Report newsletter mailing list, please contact:

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